



**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2013
6 P.M.**

Special Meeting	<p>The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 6 p.m.</p>
Present	<p>Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, and Todd G. Berch, Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna, and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.</p>
Absent	<p>Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo Council Members Gerald E. Daley, Philip J. Pessina, and Deborah Kleckowski; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.</p>
Also Present	<p>Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, Acting City Attorney Timothy Lynch, Chief of Police William McKenna, Recreation Supervisor Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, Energy Coordinator John Hall, City and Town Clerk Sandra Driska, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 4 members of the public.</p>
Meeting Called to Order	<p>The Acting Chair, Majority Leader Thomas J. Serra calls the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and leads the public in the pledge of Allegiance. He states Deputy Mayor Santangelo is home with the flu.</p>
Call of Meeting Read	<p>The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.</p>
Workshop Opens	<p>The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:05 p.m.</p> <p>Councilman Klattenberg asks if any members of the Board of Education are present. The clerk responds that they were to be here and may have been held up. Councilman Klattenberg states he will hold his questions.</p> <p>The Acting Chair recognizes Councilman Bibisi who asks for Jon Hall regarding agenda item 10-13, an ordinance. Mr. Hall states this is a program organized by CETF to allow businesses to take advantage of the same financing municipalities have for long term improvement projects. It brings private investors and makes money available for energy improvements and to finance it over a long period of time. Councilman Bibisi states no cost to the city. Mr. Hall responds it is administrative to collect it and the Tax Collector is on board for this and the City will be compensated. Councilman Bibisi asks how the City is doing and is the energy bill decreasing. Mr. Hall responds it has decreased. Councilman Bibisi asks the percentage. Mr. Hall states the City has not made improvements to all the buildings only the large ones. The Library is down 30%; City Hall, 20%; and Fire and City yard are way down by 20% to 30%. Roth Water Pump Station is one of the biggest users of electricity and it is way down. Councilman Bibisi asks if at the year end, can he give the Council a percentage of savings. Mr. Hall states he would love to do that. They do have the figures showing fiscal year 2012 versus 2011. He has the information. 2012 is the first full year and that is a slide show he did prepare and he did not show it to the Council. That information is available and he would be happy to make a report in 2013.</p> <p>Councilman Serra asks not only the percentage, but the dollars. Mr. Hall states the City has paid attention to the rate and has saved money by buying power on the open market. Councilman Serra asks that they show that as well. Mr. Hall states you have to balance the budget between predictability and the market. Councilman Klattenberg suggests the presentation is 25 minutes; perhaps after the community meeting in February, it might be a good time to follow through on the workshop on the savings. Mr. Hall states it is ready to go. Councilman Serra will ask the clerk to add this to the February agenda for after the community meeting.</p> <p>Councilman Klattenberg asks Mr. Hall to explain what is happening. Mr. Hall states they are combining their programs for energy efficiencies not only municipalities, but business and personal. If Middletown joins it, we qualify for</p>

a \$15,000 grant because of the outreach so far. The City needs to buy a percentage of energy from renewable resources and the \$4,000 is what it will cost to buy renewable energy for the entire City to buy 16% of our entire energy usage from renewable resources and that is what we have to do each year. We will pay \$4,000 and get \$15,000 back. Councilman Klattenberg discusses points. Mr. Hall sates for everyone who signs on for home solutions and for what the City does or businesses, we get points and they add up and we have already passed the second threshold of 100 to qualify for the \$15,000 Bright Idea grant.

Councilman Serra asks for further questions for this director; he asks Councilman Klattenberg to give an update on the projects the citizens of Middletown voted for and one is Eckersley-Hall and the other is Water and Sewer and if there is no objection, they should give a report.

Councilman Klattenberg states as you know the Council received in their packets a summary of the project of the Eckersley-Hall. On a monthly basis either Councilman Pessina or I will prepare another progress report. In the progress report it explains how the architectural firm is working hard to complete the construction drawings that we need by the end of February. We gave them a working deadline so we can go out to bid in March. They are on schedule for the deadline, but there are a lot of decisions they have to make and IT will be working on helping for a technology plan and Bob Dobmeier has been a good resource. There is an expert on geothermal who will determine the suitability to use geothermal technology, ground source heat pumps. A test well was installed at 450 feet and we learned that the geology of the site and ground water is well suited for geothermal. There is a draft plan to install 18 borings on the property to meet the heating and cooling requirements. That will reduce the long term heating costs by 75% and cooling by 50%. The historical preservation is another element that they are working on. We need to bring on board and he has a proposal from the Connection and they have a willingness to rip up the floors and plywood and the suspended ceilings to see what can be preserved for the floor and the architecture in the ceiling yet preserving the historical features. We want to move forward with that. In addition to that, the committee received \$250 donation from the Middletown Road Race for the work they did at the road race and they received a call from Radiological Associates who were moving and they donated a conference table in excellent condition and when the architects drew a rendering it was a 12 ft. by 4 ft. conference table like this donation. We will start the application process for the state Historic Tax Credits.

Noted for the Record

Councilwoman Bartolotta takes her seat at 6:19 p.m.

Councilman Serra asks if there are any questions relative to this project. Seeing none, he asks Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer to give an update on their project. Mr. Russo states we did file an application with DEEP for design funds from the Clean Water Fund and that was done the last week of December and they are waiting for an answer. DEEP filed with us a letter that all the costs the WPCA advanced on the project would be covered by this Design Agreement once it is approved and we can recapture any costs we put out thus far. We are working on the pipeline design and it has to be 85% done by March 5 to preserve the funding set aside. We need to show DEEP we are making advances and get it out to bid before July 1. If they go beyond July 1, the money will be recaptured by other projects and MDC is right on our heels with priority points and if we are not ready to go MDC can suck the money up. It is important to get the design work done. You may see the borings along the proposed route on the entrance ramp near Cromwell through town behind the auto repair shop and Middletown Plate Glass. They are closely following the train tracks and the geotech is important for the direction to drill. They are making design changes to the directional drill. All directional drillers in N.E. are looking at going from ductile iron to PVC pipe and it would allow us to pull a lot more with a much smaller unit. The way the project was originally seen it was one million pounds of pull and going to plastic, we are down to a 6,000 pound machine. They will have a separate trestle crossing behind St. John's and the ancient burial grounds and their refueling area for the trains. They are going under Hartford Avenue and Bridge Street and using a machine that is not as powerful. Councilman Serra asks if that is the change. He asks about the trustworthiness. Mr. Russo responds those are the questions they are asking and it has been in service for about 30 years and does match ductile iron and is repairable in place. The problem going with ductile is most of that equipment is out on the Marcellus shale drilling site and we would be competing for gas money and it would be costly. There are a number of directional drillers with 6,000 pound equipment and it would keep the cost down. It is not an easy project. Councilman Serra asks the life of the project and make sure that is researched. He asks in terms of meeting deadlines, is that soon enough. Mr. Russo states in his discussions with the Mayor, he has not been asked to stop. He is doing things beyond his authority without having the building committee and the sooner we get the building committee, we have the first change order and we have bills. Councilman Serra states when the Council gave you the

authority, we should be meeting. Mr. Russo states as soon as they are at 80% design of the pipe, the next task needs to get started. Three contracts, one for pipeline, the second for the pump station and different contractors and a contractor for select demolition. Councilman Serra states what is the time frame for all of this. Mr. Russo responds he doesn't have the documents and the receipt of bids and approval would be August to September start and completion in one year and the pump station would be finished in the Spring of 2015, and shake down would be 2015 – 2016. Councilman Serra states that is 3-1/2 years. Mr. Russo responds yes and if DEEP keeps the funding coming.

The Acting Chair asks for other questions to Directors; hearing none he asks for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourns

Councilman Berch moves to adjourn and his motion is seconded by Councilman Klattenberg. There is no discussion; the vote is called and it is unanimous to adjourn. The Acting Chair adjourns the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk